

3 ~~14~~ (Original) The method in accordance with claim ~~9~~¹, wherein the step of providing a quantity of flux proximate the solder ball includes disposing the flux at the coil proximate the distal end of the shaft.

12-13. (Cancelled)

4 ~~14~~ (Currently Amended) The method in accordance with claim 1 ~~12~~, further comprising a step of coupling the shaft to a holding fixture, wherein the holding fixture holds the shaft in a vertical orientation.

B3
5 ~~15~~ (Original) The method in accordance with claim ~~9~~¹, wherein the guidewire further comprises a heat shrink tube coupled to the shaft.

6 ~~16~~ (Original) The method in accordance with claim ~~15~~⁵, wherein the heat shrink tube stops proximal flow of flux during the step of heating the solder ball.

7 ~~17~~ (Currently Amended) A method of forming an atraumatic distal tip on a guidewire, comprising:

providing an elongate shaft having a distal end a coil disposed along the a length of the shaft;

coupling the shaft to a holding fixture;

providing a solder ball;

providing a quantity of flux proximate the solder ball;